

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

20 JAN 1984

OLL 84-0008/2

AA. ER 84-127

The Honorable Newt Gingrich
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Gingrich:

Thank you for your kind invitation to speak at "The Pursuit of Peace" conference to be held on Tuesday, 31 January 1984.

I am sorry to have to decline since my official duties preclude my being available that day. I wish you every success for the conference, which has my enthusiastic support.

Again, thanks for inviting me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

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Remarks

Recommendation please to DCI together with a reply for his signature.

Executive Secretary

6 January 84

Date

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NEWT GINGRICH
SIXTH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

Executive Registry

84-127

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

January 4, 1984

The Honorable William Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Director Casey:

Two months ago I co-chaired, along with Congressman Connie Mack and Congressman Vin Weber, what has come to be known as the "Baltimore Conference." Fifty Republican congressmen spent three days discussing the future of the Republican Party as well as the ideas and policies that will shape that future.

I believe we desperately need a new dialogue in the area of national defense and foreign policy as it relates to the issue of "peace". A dialogue that would parallel the ground that we broke at our "Baltimore Conference" on domestic policy. With that goal in mind, I am inviting 60 of my congressional colleagues and their senior staff members to a one-day seminar on Tuesday, January 31, 1984, to discuss our American national defense and foreign policy. The conference will be called "State of the Union 1984: The Pursuit of Peace."

I would like to invite you to speak at our conference. Your speech should be between twenty and thirty minutes in length, and we will allow a short period of time after your remarks for questions. I would like for you to address the subject of American foreign policy.

The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001 (telephone 202/737-1234).

The conference is being coordinated by Paul Dietrich of the John Davis Lodge Center for International Studies.



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I believe this will be a very important conference and I hope you can be part of it.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me or Paul Dietrich at (202) 547-1106.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Newt".

Newt Gingrich

David S. Broder

Opening GOP Minds

The setting will be a conference center near Baltimore. The discussion will probably touch on such typical think-tank questions as the challenge of Japanese trade competition, Soviet military expansion and Third World population growth.

What is different about the meeting planned for next weekend is that the conferees will not be graduate students but working politicians—younger-generation conservatives whose loyalty to Ronald Reagan does not blind them to the fact that the world is changing in ways that he and his contemporaries can hardly reckon.

About 60 House Republicans have accepted invitations to the meeting. Its goal is nothing less than to attempt to launch their party and the country in a new direction.

The Baltimore Conference, as it is being called, is intriguing. It represents a serious effort by younger Republicans to prepare their party for the post-Reagan era, even before the 1984 election. The effort has the active encouragement of several members of the House Republican leadership, but the impetus comes from very junior members of the GOP.

Three who have played key roles in preparing for the meeting are freshman Rep. Connie M. Mack III of Florida, sophomore Rep. Van Weber of Minnesota and third-term Rep. Newt Gingrich of Georgia. Like all but one of the dozen GOP members who have been meeting weekly for six months to launch the project, they are in their 30s or early 40s.

Respectively a banker, a political manager and a history professor before coming to the House, Mack, Weber and Gingrich individually practice a kind of iconoclastic conservatism. They differ on specific issues from Reagan's policies but give the president their broad support.

What unites them and their colleagues in this enterprise is their belief that neither party is really keeping pace in its thinking with the accelerated changes sweeping this society and this globe. They are critical but not pessimistic. They hope and believe that Republicans may be well positioned to catch up with the changing world.

To spend an hour with them, as I did last week, is to hear the refreshing talk of people who are not afraid to admit that they don't have the answers, and may not even know the right questions. Unlike most politicians, uncertainty does not intimidate them. But that does not mean they are flying without a compass.

Influenced by authors like Peter Drucker, Daniel Bell, Kenneth Boulding, Alvin Toffler and John Naisbitt, they believe, as Mack said in his letter of invitation to the conference, "We have moved into a new phase of American politics."

Gingrich offers a nautical metaphor in the briefing book that will be given to the Baltimore conferees: "Imagine, if you will, that America from 1945 to 1970 was like a family who lived on a houseboat floating on a large, tranquil lake. All was quiet and peaceful. Our nation was the richest, most powerful in history. . . . We were unchallengable. It was in this world that the Liberal Welfare State was developed and flourished.

"Around 1970, America began to experience rough water. We all thought it was just a storm. . . . Nixon in 1972, Ford and Carter in 1976 and Reagan in 1980 all promised that a right-of-center or left-of-center minor adjustment would bring back calm. All were wrong.

"America has entered a great white-water river of change. We will be on that river for a generation. That river will require new skills, new habits, new ideas, new inventions and a new style of leadership."

The young conservatives are quick to admit they do not know what those new skills, habits and ideas will be, nor can they fill in the outline of the "Conservative Opportunity Society" they would like to see emerge as the successor to the "Liberal Welfare State."

For now, they are focusing on opening the minds of other Republicans to options outside today's political dialogue. They will ask them at the Baltimore Conference to think, as if for the first time, about what kind of country this should aspire to be, what it would take to produce such a country and what kind of party could lead it.

They recognize the risk that the conference may produce nothing but babble and clichés, but they are young enough not to worry. They prefer that risk to just repeating slogans that they believe have trapped the GOP into something close to permanent minority status.

These Republicans have no monopoly in the search for new ideas, of course. Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado has tried, without much success, to introduce that concept into the Democratic presidential race. A score or more of young House and Senate Democrats are searching, on their own, for fresh ways of getting a handle on the problems of the '80s.

Intellectual ferment, however, is welcome wherever it appears in politics. To find it surfacing at this point among conservative members of the party that has its own conservative president in office is remarkable.